

VZCZCXRO6790  
RR RUEHDBU RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHAH #0273 0721249  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 131249Z MAR 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7081  
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 4937  
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY 5375  
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC  
RULSMCA/DEA QUANTICO VA  
RULSMCA/DEA TRAINING QUANTICO VA  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/HSE/CCJ5//  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000273

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN (PERRY)  
TASHKENT FOR CORTINOVIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [PBTS](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: 1,033 KG. OF NARCOTICS SEIZED ON TURKMENISTAN-  
IRANIAN BORDER

¶1. The national newspapers of Turkmenistan "Neytralnyi [Neutral] Turkmenistan" and "Turkmenistan" reported on March 13 that Turkmenistani border guards seized 830 kilograms of opium and 203 kilograms of hashish at the Sarakhs border crossing checkpoint on the Turkmenistan-Iranian border. The newspapers said the Turkmenistani law enforcement agencies have begun an investigation, but no further details were provided.

¶2. This is the second publicized drug seizure in the last two years and perhaps a hopeful sign of GOTX willingness to cooperate on cross-border issues. We will attempt to follow up with the GOTX in conjunction with an upcoming INL Amendment to the Letter of Agreement signing.

JACOBSON